

PROVIDING FOR CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3311, AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR EMERGENCY REPAIRS AND RECONSTRUCTION OF INTERSTATE I-35 BRIDGE IN MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA; MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF S. 1927, PROTECT AMERICA ACT OF 2007; AND MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3222, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1927, a temporary bill to renew the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, FISA, to provide procedures for authorizing certain acquisitions of foreign intelligence information.

As a member of the Committee on Homeland Security, I know that the recent National Intelligence Estimate contains a stark warning about our vulnerability to terrorist attacks. S. 1927 intends to fill an intelligence gap that exists in the original FISA law and due in part to a recent court ruling regarding the surveillance of foreign suspects. S. 1927 seeks to make clear the procedures for obtaining warrants for the surveillance of domestic and foreign terrorist suspects. Reform in the intelligence-gathering arena is particularly necessary as the worlds of technology and communications rapidly change. Clearer laws and boundaries enable our intelligence agencies to respond swiftly against terror suspects.

Although I believe in providing our intelligence agencies with the necessary tools to protect our Nation from terrorism, I am also concerned that we do so without limiting Americans' liberties and rights to privacy. Because of the seriousness of the threats we face, we cannot delay in giving needed direction to our intelligence agencies. However, I share many of my colleagues' concerns with this bill. While S. 1927 includes a provision to sunset in 6 months, I support Speaker PELOSI's call to the House Committee on the Judiciary and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence to revisit this issue as soon as possible when Congress reconvenes. Congress should continue to work to find a balance between protecting our Nation, and protecting the freedoms that have made our Nation great.

HONORING 125 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE BY THE FIREFIGHTERS OF GOOD WILL FIRE COMPANY IN BELVIDERE, NEW JERSEY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the volunteer firefighters of Good Will Fire Company No. 1 in Belvidere, New Jersey. For the past 125

years, they have faithfully guarded their neighbors. I commend them for their extraordinary service.

The Good Will Fire Company was first formed in 1879 and officially incorporated on April 26, 1882. It has relied upon the dedication of volunteer firefighters throughout its rich history. Changes in demographics, lifestyle choices, and regulatory requirements have made it harder to recruit volunteers, but the men and women of this fire company make up for the open spots with their tremendous commitment and spirit.

Many of the current members of Good Will Fire Company have fire fighting in their blood, fulfilling a legacy of service. And, there are also those at Good Will that have sons and daughters ready to step into their boots.

On August 18th, the Good Will Fire Company celebrated their service with a parade. The people of Belvidere are well-aware of how fortunate they are to have these men and women protecting their lives and homes and businesses. And, I join them in honoring these brave firefighters.

IN RECOGNITION OF PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS DANA M. GAINES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Petty Officer First Class Dana M. Gaines, United States Navy, for twenty years of active duty naval service.

From his entrance into the navy in 1987 all the way up to his retirement twenty years later, Petty Officer Gaines exemplified what it means to be great leader. Early on in his career, he became the first sailor to be appointed President of the Army's Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers' program. In this role, he oversaw the service of over 1500 soldiers and sailors. Later in his career, Petty Officer Gaines was commissioned to Fort George G. Meade in Maryland where he served as the lead instructor and course manager for report writing course IS-222.

Petty Officer Gaines' great achievements in the U.S. Navy have not gone unrecognized. His awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Award, the Armed Forces Service Medal, as well as six overseas service awards, among others.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Petty Officer Dana M. Gaines for twenty years of active duty naval service. As he retires from active duty to spend more time with his wife Kristy and children Christopher and Jarin, I and the country are grateful for his service.

NEW DIRECTION FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill. (H.R. 3221) moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure:

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 3221, the New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act; and H.R. 2776, the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2007.

As forward thinking as this legislation is Madam Chairman, it is by no means a perfect bill. This legislation contains a Renewable Portfolio Standard for investor-owned electric companies that I voted against, and remain opposed to as I believe it places an unfair burden on my state of North Carolina and the other Southeastern states. It is my hope that this RPS can be corrected in conference so that certain states are not placed with the burden of funding initiatives in other states.

These two pieces of legislation truly represent a new direction in our nation's energy policy. This legislation will move the United States toward greater energy independence and security by developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure.

H.R. 3221 provides incentives that will increase research and development in clean energy technologies, raise efficiency standards for appliances and lighting, and direct the Federal Government to become a leader in reducing energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. H.R. 2771 will expand tax incentives and bonds for renewable energy, energy efficiency and renewable fuels as well as incentives for consumers to purchase plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and energy efficient appliances.

This legislation will put our nation on a path towards energy independence, it will strengthen national security, grow our economy, and create new jobs. It does so by investing in the future, in new energy technologies and innovation.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, August 4, 2007, I was unable to cast my floor vote on roll call numbers 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845 and 846.